



Connecticut State Medical Society
Testimony in Support of House Bill 6283 An Act Regulating Electronic Cigarettes
Presented to the Public Health Committee
March 11, 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the American College of Surgeons Connecticut Chapter (CTACS) thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in support of **House Bill 6283 An Act Regulating Electronic Cigarettes**.

As we have stated in previous testimony both today and this session, many people view electronic cigarettes as a safer alternative to both smoke and smokeless tobacco products. This is not true and could lead to health issues for those who become addicted to nicotine. Nicotine delivered electronically is just as addictive and damaging as nicotine inhaled or otherwise absorbed by means of traditional tobacco products. In addition, chemicals added to nicotine in electronic cigarettes to help create the inhaled vapor are known to be as harmful as the chemicals contained in smoke and smoke free tobacco.

With a growing volume of literature supporting the health risks of electronic cigarettes statutes should be amended as in House Bill 6283 to require electronic cigarettes be defined as a tobacco product. We further support language in the bill regarding marketing restrictions and subject them to equal standards for contaminants and strict control of manufacturing. In addition, disclosure of materials used and the sources should be included in labeling which must also include warning of the health consequences associated with the use of electronic cigarettes. We know what is in our food and this product is being inhaled into our body. We should know what it contains and what chemicals are entering our body, including those that could be detrimental to our health and well being.

Physicians experience patients addicted to nicotine and its related health implications on a daily basis. They see the damage that is done by these products and understand the importance of taking every opportunity to protect our patients from this scourge. Regulating tobacco products, but not nicotine delivery systems because it uses an electronically generated delivery system is not consistent with the goal of promoting healthy habits. Failure to do so creates the false impression that such products are not as harmful or addictive as tobacco. Physicians and society in general should not forsake any opportunity to protect our patients and citizens from exposure to harmful products, including nicotine. Prohibiting electronic cigarettes is a step in the right direction to improve the health and safety of our state.

Please support House Bill 6283.